

Glacier National Park International Peace Park Biosphere Reserve World Heritage Site P.O. Box 128 West Glacier, MT 59936 www.nps.gov/glac

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## **Glacier National Park Fact Sheet**

(07-01)

March 5, 2007

**Subject to Change** 

## 2007 Going-to-the-Sun Road Information

Rehabilitation of the historic Going-to-the-Sun Road (Sun Road) is underway and comprehensive work on a 3.5-mile alpine section (west tunnel to Haystack Creek) is scheduled to begin in summer 2007. In addition to the 8-10-year road rehabilitation, in November 2006 the "Pineapple Express" Pacific storm system brought torrential rain, flooding and damage to park roads and trails along and near the Continental Divide, including portions of the Sun Road.

Many lower elevation Sun Road storm damage repairs are completed, but east of Logan Pass, parts of both lanes were lost at six locations. The east side stabilization necessary to get the Sun Road open for visitors is the park's top priority over the scheduled road work. National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) managers intend to have remaining Sun Road damage stabilized or repaired sufficiently for summer 2007. The goal is to have the entire road open for public use with minimal impact to the core summer season (mid-June to mid-September). The scheduled 2007 Sun Road improvements will begin *after* visitor access is restored across the road.

The remaining east side Sun Road storm damage stabilization will begin in May, weather permitting. The NPS and its partner, the FHWA, plan to install a temporary two-lane bridge that allows traffic across the two-lane washout near the east tunnel while other road repairs are simultaneously underway.

The NPS and FHWA are committed to maintaining 'shared use' of the Sun Road (by both of the public and contractors at the same time) during core summer months throughout the multi-year project. "During the core summer season there will be only temporary delays (several short delays totaling a maximum of 30 minutes) for a trip across the entire 50-mile road. During the spring and fall, public use may be restricted through work zones while the rest of the Sun Road remains open, weather permitting.

The following work schedule will be in effect for the 2007 Going-to-the-Sun Road rehabilitation:

| Summer 2007 Schedule            | Hours                   | Work Schedule                                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Daytime Schedule (Mon - Fri)    | 6 am to 10 pm           | Short work zone delays totaling 30 min. maximum |
| Nighttime Schedule (Sun - Thur) | 10 pm to 6 am           | Up to 4 hour delays                             |
| Weekend Schedule (Fri - Sun)    | 6 am Fri. to 10 pm Sun. | Short work zone delays totaling 30 min. maximum |

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## Core Summer Season - Friday, June 15 to Monday, September 17, 2007:

- Weather and road conditions permitting, the entire Sun Road will be open for two-way traffic, with scheduled short work zone delays totaling 30 min. maximum
- Flaggers or traffic lights will be used to route alternating traffic through work zones
- Nighttime travelers (10 pm to 6 am) are advised to drive U.S. Highway 2 to avoid lengthy delays
- Contractors will work seven days a week unless otherwise announced
- Weekend work schedules (6 am Friday to 10 pm Sunday)
- No extended nighttime delays on weekends
- On weekends (6 am Friday to 10 pm Sunday) there will be short work zone delays totaling 30 min. maximum

## Fall and Spring Shoulder Seasons - Monday, September 17, 2007, to Friday, June 13, 2008:

- Logan Pass will be accessible for motorized traffic from one side, weather permitting.
- Portions of the Sun Road may NOT be accessible for both motorized traffic and non-motorized access (i.e. hikers, bicyclists) when road work is accelerated. Pedestrian access will vary.

**New Visitor Services:** As part of the Sun Road rehabilitation new visitor services and improvements are being phased into operation:

- Free (optional) Sun Road shuttle system (no extra charge once park entrance fee paid)
- New Apgar Transit Center (scheduled opening July 1, 2007)
- Interpretive wayside exhibits installed along the Sun Road (2007)
- Trip-planning kiosks available at Apgar Transit Center (2007) and St. Mary Visitor Center (2008)
- Technological communications improvements (real-time traffic conditions and shuttle locations)
- Traffic flow improvements at West Glacier and St. Mary park entrance stations (2008)

More information about the Sun Road project and other visitor services is available at www.nps.gov/glac.

To receive updates about the Sun Road project via email, please send an email message to **glac\_news\_releases@nps.glac**.